

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/658,124	NALLAPA, VENKATAPATHI R.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stephen Elmore	2185	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed December 16, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |


STEPHEN C. ELMORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In independent claims 1, 11, 17, 18 and 20 directed towards a method of storing data, a method of emulating an electrically erasable programmable read only memory using a flash memory, an apparatus to emulate an electrically erasable programmable read only memory using a flash memory, and a processor-readable media storing instructions for causing a processor to store data, the following features taken in combination with the remaining limitations in the independent claims are not found in and or are not obvious in view of the prior art of record,

Claim 1,

"setting a single second bit of the pointer, the second bit being a next successive bit in the pointer to the first bit, the second bit indicating an address of the second set of contiguous memory locations of the flash memory; and erasing at least the pointer after a last bit in the pointer has been set";

Claim 11,

"for each of the sets of data, setting one respective bit of a number of bits of a pointer stored in the flash memory before storing a next one of the sets of data, the one bit indicative of the location in the flash memory at which the respective set of data is stored; and after a last bit in the pointer has been set, erasing a sector of the flash memory containing the pointer and the stored sets of data";

Claim 17,

"means for setting one respective bit of a number of bits of a pointer stored in the flash memory for each of the sets of data, before storing a next one of the sets of data, the one bit indicative of the location in the flash memory at which the respective set of data is stored; and means for erasing a sector of the flash memory containing the pointer and the stored sets of data after a last bit in the pointer has been set";

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Claim 18,

"(a processor configured) to set one respective bit of a number of bits of a pointer stored in the flash memory for each of the sets of data, before storing a next one of the sets of data, the one bit indicative of the location in the flash memory at which the respective set of data is stored; and to erase a sector of the flash memory containing the pointer and the stored sets of data after a last bit in the pointer has been set";

Claim 20,

"for each of the sets of data, setting one respective bit of a number of bits of a pointer stored in the flash memory before storing a next one of the sets of data, the one bit indicative of the memory location in the flash memory at which the respective set of data is stored; and after a last bit in the pointer has been set, erasing a sector of the flash memory containing the pointer and the stored sets of data".

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Elmore whose telephone number is (571) 272-4436. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 8, 2006


STEPHEN C. ELMORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER